

Springfield ICON Membership Meeting
March 29, 2021
Zoom Conference

Present: Carol Kneeder, Jess Weitzel, Jill Steiner, Jan Van Qualen, Donna Mathis, Bill Baskett, Polly Poskin, Paul O'Shea, Jeanette Eichhorn, Jamie Adaire, Kristin DiCenso, Lynn McMenamin, Connie Broussard, Joe McMenamin

1. Convened at 6:03pm
2. Secretary's Report
 - a. Motion to approve January 2021 meeting minutes as presented
 - i. No discussion
 - ii. Minutes approved
3. Treasurer's Report:
 - a. Total Account Balances: \$8,232.92
 - i. No income
 - ii. No expenses
 - b. All approved
 - c. 2021 Q1 report will be filed with ISBE before April 15 deadline
4. Discussion: Springfield Urban Forestry Commission, Jan Von Qualen (chair of Commission)
 - a. Reinstated August 2019 after a 10 year lapse
 - b. 10 total commissioners
 - i. 7 volunteer commissioners
 - ii. 3 ex-officio commissioners (DPW, Arborist, GM of Public Utilities)
 - c. Importance of urban forest
 - i. Trees are as important as any other infrastructure system
 - ii. Trees help mental health and reduce crime
 - iii. Trees help mitigate stormwater capture as well
 - d. Goal of UFC – reincorporate appropriate trees into the city
 - e. FY2022 City budget includes funds for 300 trees (roughly \$50,000)
 - f. Importance of getting support from community voiced to city decisionmakers
 - g. 2020 accomplishments
 - i. Aboricultural Specifications Manual completely rewritten
 1. Includes rules for planting on any city-owned properties, City right-of-ways or property owners being required to plant
 - ii. Wrote and adopted a Tree Plan
 - iii. Several educational programs in-person pre-COVID
 - iv. Became a Tree City USA community and received a Tree City Achievement award for all the UFC's work in 2020
 - v. City received 200 bare root Oak seedlings
 - h. 2021 Goals
 - i. Tree Inventory of one quadrant of Springfield
 - ii. Plant 300 trees
 - iii. Outreach and educational programs
 - iv. Fund raising to plant more trees

- i. Upcoming events:
 - i. 4/10, Old State Capitol Plaza
 - ii. 4/14, Zoom presentation on planting native trees
 - iii. 4/17, 11a-4p Earth Day Festival at Henson Robinson Zoo
 - iv. 4/27, 3pm at the Boys & Girls Club
 - v. Next UFC meeting is 5/12 at 4pm via Zoom
- j. UFC website:
<https://www.springfield.il.us/Departments/PublicWorks/urbanforestry.aspx>
- 5. City Council Update
 - a. On March 16, Roy Williams was appointed as Ward 3 alderman
 - b. Heard report about HUD Consolidated Plan
 - c. New appointments to Planning & Zoning Commission
 - d. Extended animal control contract
- 6. Problem Property Update
 - a. Last PP Committee meeting held March 25 and minutes were shared to Steering Committee
 - b. Proposed changes to the ICON Platform is still a work in progress specifically the Garbage portion of the Platform.
- 7. Membership vote on proposed amendment to the by-laws shared via email on February 17, 2021 and can be found on the ICON website.
 - a. Motion moved to accept the by-laws changes by Carol Kneedler
 - i. Seconded by Jill Steiner
 - ii. No discussion
 - iii. All approved, none opposed
- 8. Membership Open Discussion
 - a. None
- 9. Unfinished Business
 - a. None
- 10. New Business
 - a. The next ICON Steering Committee meeting will be April 19, 5:30pm via Zoom
 - b. The next ICON Problem Property Committee meeting will be April 22, 5:30pm via Zoom
 - c. The next ICON Membership meeting will be May 24, 6pm via Zoom
- 11. Adjourned at 6:59pm
 - a. Motion to adjourn made by Jill Steiner
 - i. Seconded by Polly Poskin
 - ii. All approved

Respectfully submitted,

Jess Weitzel
Springfield ICON Steering Committee Secretary